

Seymour Board of Education



Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2025
Central Office
6:30 pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: □ Chris Champagne (6:51pm)
Stephan Behuniak
Lori Nespoli

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Susan Compton
Shannon Levey
Salvatore Bucci

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Pledge of Allegiance – Stephan Behuniak called the meeting to order at 6:46 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment provides the opportunity for the public to make a comment. It is not a dialogue between the Board and the public. Based upon what is heard during Public Comment, the Board may choose to add a topic to the agenda. If questions are posed that the Chairperson is able to answer, those questions may be addressed under the Chairperson's Comments portion of the agenda. The Board will not discuss personnel matters. Comments should be respectful and no longer than 3 minutes in length so that all who wish to comment may have the opportunity to do so. All the public wanting to comment will need to state their name and address for the record prior to addressing the Board.

- A. Public Comment called three times – no public comment.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Financial Statement

1. Mr. Salvatore Bucci provided a budget update including transportation. The budget remains on track compared to prior months, with one exception: a negative variance in transportation costs due to the need to transport special education and homeless students to Seymour. This is a mandated requirement, and the district is exploring ways to mitigate these additional expenses. No significant changes in the financial estimates; however, there is a slight variance in certified staff expenses, partly due to carry-forward grant funds. Last year, there was a surplus in grant funding, and the district plans to fully utilize the remaining grant money. Projections suggest that the budget will come close to zero by the end of the year. Sal will provide more clarity on the status of the McKinney Vento students (both short-term and long-term) at the next meeting. The district shares transportation costs for homeless students with the towns where they are currently placed. Additionally, there are extra costs associated with staff having to wait with students during transportation. The primary concern within the district remains transportation. The district does not own its own vehicles, and there is a shortage of buses and drivers. Efforts are ongoing to address these challenges.

MOTION: to move the financial report to the regular meeting (Ms. Nespoli / sec. Mr. Behuniak)

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Nespoli, Mr. Behuniak

PASSES: 2-0-0

IV. REPORTS

A. Board of Education

1. Chairman Comments - none
2. Board Member Comments - none

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Dr. Compton reiterated the significant costs associated with transportation under the McKinney-Vento program, which have placed a financial strain on the district. It was emphasized that next year, the district must fully utilize available grant funds to help offset these expenses.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- A. The meeting adjourned 6:52 pm.

Prepared by Shannon Levey,
Board Clerk